



Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 54 2023

FALL NEWSLETTER

President's Message



As the first half of my term as President of the Massachusetts Highway Association ends, I continue to be impressed by both the focus and the enthusiasm the

John Haines

members of the association display daily. That was evident by the recent success of the New England Public Works Expo last month. I don't know of another event that provides as much opportunity to speak directly to over 2000 public works colleagues in just two days. The same can be said for the other events that our Board and members put together every year including Snow & Ice Driver Training and our Scholarship Awards and Golf Tournament, this year's honoree being Gerry Coppola. The dedication that these members show to our organization is truly impressive.

More importantly, that same focus and dedication was even more evident earlier this fall when historic flooding impacted many communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Hard-struck communities utilized our Mutual Aid program, and the call was answered by numerous surrounding cities and towns. These are the actions that make me proudest of not only being part of the Massachusetts Highway Association, but the greater public works community.

I have said this before and will continue to say it, but whether in Becket, Bridgewater, or Boston, we all face surprisingly similar challenges and that is also our greatest strength, working for the same common cause - our residents - providing essential services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There is no other service that provides as much to as many every day as public works.

John Haines
MHA President

MHA 2023 Annual Meeting, Scholarship Awards, Election Results

Officers elected for the 2023-2024 year:

President to serve one year term	John Haines, East Bridgewater
1st Vice President to serve one year term	Scott Crisafulli, Milford
2nd Vice President to serve one year term	Roby Whitehouse, Yarmouth
Trust Fund Trustee to serve 2-year term	Christopher Cronin, Andover
Barnstable County Director 3-year appointment	Jeff Colby, Yarmouth
Tri-County Director 3-year term	Robert Colson, West Springfield
Worcester County Director 3-year term	Jay Fink, Worcester

Annual Awards were presented to:

Past President, Lisa DeMeo; Granger Award, Chris Bouchard; John Kiley Award, Ann Hadley of JC Marketing Associates; Recognition Award, Trustees Joseph Welch and Michael Valenti.



Scholarship Awards - Thirty-two \$1200.00 scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

Anthony Breen, Emma Breen, Kathryn Breen, Dillan Burr, Vivian Burr, Madison Carreiro, Tyler Carpentier, Carlson Cantoreggi, Joshua Colby, Elizabeth Collins, Abigail Colson, Jacob Colson, Richard Combra III, Anna Conroy, Adrianna Crisafulli, Joseph DeLuca, Lois Divoll, Ava Hale, Haden Hale, Daniel Hinkey, Luke Johnson, Olivia Kelly, James Langley, Alexandra Lavenia, Michael McCarthy, Meghan McGonagle, Maia McGonagle, Julia Russell, Jenna Stencel, Kathleen Tonaszuck, Maxwell Warner, Emily Woodsmall.



71st Joint Meeting to be held November 14th

The 71st Joint Meeting of the Tri-County Highway Superintendents' Association and the Massachusetts Highway Association will be held on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee, MA. Please note, this is a change from what the calendar says.

Presentations at the meeting will include an overview of CARB 2024 and DTNA E-Mobility by Pat Rahlke with Detroit Diesel Corporation, and the Current State of Disposal Options for Municipal Waste Streams by Dan Walsh, LSP, Director of Technical Environmental Services, W.L. French Excavating Corp. Association officers are busy coordinating details for two additional presentations for this upcoming Annual Joint Meeting.

Please mark your calendars for this upcoming meeting and watch for the meeting agenda and registration.

MHA Winter Meeting Scheduled for February 1st

The annual Massachusetts Highway Association Winter Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1st, 2024 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, with a "snow date" of Thursday, February 8th. The program committee is hard at work lining up an agenda. Please mark your calendar and watch for the agenda and registration announcement in January.

43rd New England Public Works Expo was held on September 20-21

Two days of excellent weather greeted the 2060 attendees who attended the 43rd New England Public Works Expo on September 20th and 21st at the Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center in Marlborough. More than 180 vendors also showcased their equipment, supplies, and technology at the sold-out show.

Several schools sent vocational co-op students who are interested in opportunities in the public works field. The students were able to attend a brief seminar and view all the equipment. Hopefully some of these students will become public works employees. See article on "Filling Shoes" in this newsletter.

Photos on Page 10.



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Mutual Aid at Work

City of Worcester DPW & Parks answered the call in Princeton

The Town of Princeton recently extended its thanks to the City of Worcester and its Department of Public Works & Parks for the Mutual Aid provided to their Town in September.

After experiencing significant flood damage throughout the northeast section of Town, the small town's Highway Department could not repair the infrastructure without assistance.



According to a letter sent by Princeton Highway Superintendent Benjamin D. Metcalf, "We requested mutual aid from surrounding Towns, including the City of Worcester. Worcester was able to send a 10-wheel dump truck along with three men for five long days. Patrick Sullivan (Sully), William Berg (Bill), and Paul Snape were three of the nicest, most helpful guys you could have sent. They performed above and beyond what the small Town of Princeton could have expected. The two operators on the first day, in the rain, had to direct traffic and perform labor duties such as swinging a shovel around and running a plate whacker for compaction. Not one complaint from either Bill or Paul. All three gentlemen worked nine-hour days in Princeton. That does not include the time it took them to drive from Worcester and back each of those days. I am guessing they worked, at a minimum, 10-hour days for Princeton. You could tell they just wanted to help as much as possible, and they did. The rest of the week they operated some of our newer equipment, 305 Cat excavator, Cat Loaders and even a Backhoe. Bill and Paul are great operators and completed the difficult tasks like removing tons of roadway debris, gravel road repairs, digging and setting catch basins and drain lines, fine grading for pavement, and filling in washouts on our shoulders in various locations. Patrick was an excellent driver as well. I didn't get one complaint for speeding!! We would give him an address or intersection and he would have his truck there in minutes. I don't think he ever got lost. Sully had a great attitude as well. You sure sent some friendly guys. The Town of Princeton cannot thank you enough for your generosity and compassion the City of Worcester has for all surrounding Towns, not just Princeton. I hope this never happens again to any surrounding town or city, but if it does, Princeton will be there to help in any way possible. The City of Worcester is lucky to have such a great group of employees that go above and beyond. Thank you, Bill, Paul, and Sully, you made myself and the crew here in Princeton laugh and smile while working long days in some crummy weather!"

Benjamin D. Metcalf

Princeton Highway Superintendent

Mutual Aid sent by Holden, Sterling, Hubbardston, Westminster, and West Boylston DPWs

On the morning of Tuesday, September 12th, Ben Metcalf, Princeton's Highway Superintendent reached out to Holden Department of Public Works for help in responding to their flooding emergency. That day, Holden sent two 10-wheel dump trucks, a front-end loader, and a rubber tire excavator, along with a foreman and three crew members. Holden's Supervisor of Operations and Director of Public Works also responded that day, and they worked with Ben in performing additional damage assessment and acting as a planning coordinator for Princeton. Additionally, MassDOT, acting through MEMA, provided several dump trucks, variable message boards, and a number of cones and barricades on that Tuesday.

After getting a full damage assessment on the day after the flooding, additional calls for public works mutual aid were sent to the Towns of Sterling, Hubbardston, Westminster, and West Boylston. Each of these towns provided a 2-3-person highway crew, dump trucks, and/or backhoes for working on culvert repairs, dirt road regrading, roadway shoulder repairs, and roadway paving repairs. The Town of Holden's crews and equipment remained in town all week through Friday, September 15. Sterling's crew was onsite on Wednesday, September 13, Hubbardston's on Thursday, September 14, and West Boylston's and Westminster's on Friday, September 15. In response to the request for public works mutual aid through the Mass Highway Association, via the Worcester County Mutual Aid Coordinator Scott Crisafulli of Milford, the City of Worcester committed to providing a crew with operators and trucks each day for the week of September 18. MEMA and MassDOT also worked to provide private road contractors for Princeton from their state contracts.

The crew and equipment time was all logged and tracked, with the hope that federal disaster aid reimbursement will be forthcoming.

Using public works mutual aid, Princeton was able to increase the size of their emergency response and expedite their recovery process in the process.

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.

Holden DPW Director

Mutual Aid Update

By David Desrosiers and Chris Bouchard for the Mutual Aid Committee

The Mutual Aid Committee is continuing to work on small improvements and upgrades to the ArcGIS online application that will be used to dispatch resources for large events. Thank you to MaDOT for all the work that they have done with us on this application. Although I am certain that we will continue to refine this application in the future, I believe it is finally at the point now that is easy and intuitive to use.

In the near future, we will schedule some additional training for the County Mutual Aid Coordinators (CMAC's) on these changes and improvements. In the meantime, we continue to use Dave Lane's tried and true old school methods (yellow pad and cell phone) to dispatch resources for small events.

The Mass Highway Association had a nice presentation about the Mutual Aid Program running at the tradeshow. Special thanks to TEC and Jody Trunfio for helping to put this presentation together.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped others with the recent flooding in central MA. Every time that we step up and help one another, it demonstrates that our Mutual Aid program is a valuable resource.

Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Rodeo)

By Chris Bouchard, Chair

The Massachusetts Highway Association held its Driver Skills and Safety Training on July 19th at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area. The weather and location were both great - somehow, we didn't do the set up in the rain this year, and it almost seemed wrong.

This year we had the single axle truck event and a wheel loader event for the competition. Thank you for making this year our largest event to date as we had 29 loader operators, and 29 truck teams compete. It was very competitive and helped build comradery among the competitors, along with great peer interaction.

MHA and the County Associations have some of the best vehicle pre-trip vehicle inspectors, written test takers, loader operators and snowplow drivers. Your cities and towns should be proud, as they have trained you well.

I would like to thank all the teams and the cities and towns they represent for their participation in this training event as we would not have the event without you. The judges and the cities, towns, state agencies, vendors that you work for are a key component to making this event happen and run smoothly and efficiently. I would also like to thank our vendor sponsors and towns that helped us get the loaders and trucks we use for the testing event, and to Baystate Roads Program for handling the registrations and advertising, as this helps us greatly with our event.

2023 MHA results:

Single Axle Truck: 1st Town of Shrewsbury, 2nd Town of Yarmouth, 3rd Town of Concord;

Wheel Loader: 1st Town of Concord, 2nd Town of Shrewsbury, 3rd City of Newton

We travelled to the Western Snow and Ice conference on September 27th - 29th and competed at the national finals. The competition was tough this year with the largest field of competitors, 395, from across the country.

Here are the results:

Single Axle Truck - 24th out of 53 teams

Ten Wheel Truck - 5th out of 59 teams

Wheel Loader - 5th out of 100 teams

Skidsteer - 24th out of 68 teams

Motor Grader - 16th out of 58 teams.

The MHA team competed in the overall team for the day by competing in all 5 events and finished 3rd out of 23 teams.

Other New England team finishes:

NE APWA Manchester, NH Single Axle Truck 15th; RI Public works Single Axle Truck 31st; Portland, ME Single Axle Truck 34th. Great job by all.

Lastly, thank you to the MHA Board of Directors for their continued support of this training event financially by making it possible to take the winners to the National Finals in Colorado and to represent Massachusetts.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Driver Skills and Safety Training event which will be held on July 17th, 2024.

Filling Shoes

By Cynthia Schaedig, Employment Counselor, MassDOT's Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program/OJT & SS Programs

Chris Bouchard wrote an article for the Massachusetts Highway Association's newsletter about MassDOT's Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program in 2021. It was titled Who's Going to Fill Your Shoes? This article is an update on that program. Here are a few of our success stories and shoes we are filling.

Tim Nacewicz attended Westfield Technical Academy and did a co-op with the Southwick Highway Department, his hometown. Tim saved the money he earned from his co-op and when he received his CDL B scholarship, he paid the difference and got his CDL A. He now has a permanent position with the Southwick Highway Department. Thank you, Randy Brown.

Daurys Reynosa attended J.P. Keefe in Framingham and originally intended to become a social worker. But he realized that he didn't want to spend his life in an office, and so he took the Pre-Apprenticeship Program to find out about jobs that would take him outdoors. Being in Social Work, he wasn't allowed to do a co-op at a City DPW during the school year, so we made arrangements for a summer internship with the City of Hopkinton. (Thank you, Jon Westerling). Daurys worked all summer and loved it. And Hopkinton loved him. They kept him on as a temporary employee in the fall while he got his CDL and hoisting licenses. As soon as he had earned his credentials, Hopkinton offered him a permanent position as a heavy equipment operator. Daurys loves what he's doing.



Tim Nacewicz

Daurys Reynosa

Ty Aponte

Ty Aponte of Pathfinder Vocational Technical Academy did his co-op with the Town of Palmer DPW. Ty is now in CDL School and is hoping for a permanent position with Palmer DPW when he has his license. Ty wrote a letter to this year's Pre-Apprenticeship class at Pathfinder telling them what a great opportunity it has been for him and encouraging them to take advantage of it too. Thank you, Matt Morse, for giving Ty a chance.

Violet Geoffrin is a senior in Forestry at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton. She has been co-oping with the City of Chicopee. The City Forester, Chris Scott, was very impressed with the forestry program at Smith Voc and says she is one of the best trained employees he's ever had.

Cameron Lorge, another Smith Voc student, also did a co-op in Chicopee. He's an Agricultural Mechanics student and spent time in several departments in Chicopee during his co-op. Both Violet and Cameron have indicated an interest in working for Chicopee full-time after graduation in the spring of 2024. DPW Supervisor Liz Batiste is very pleased with the co-op program and is in the process of hiring a Westfield Tech student into a co-op for this fall. Thanks Liz!

Ian Casado and Jacob Ettress both attended Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fall River. *Paul Ferland* hired them into co-ops with the Fall River Water Treatment Facility. After their co-ops, they were both hired by Fall River DPW for permanent positions. **Madison Macri** is currently co-oping with Fall River DPW and hopes to move into a permanent position as well. Thanks, Paul!



Violet Geoffrin

Madison Macri

Cameron Lorge

Not all co-op students work out as well as these students, but many do. We have previous co-op students currently now working full-time permanent positions in Fall River, South Hadley and Sudbury, and a number of current students who are in the process of getting their CDL's and have jobs in the works with Shutesbury, Montague, and Plainfield. Other students have gone on to work for private companies that bid on highway jobs, or in labor unions that build transportation projects.

For more information, please visit the website www.mapavstp.com or send an email to Jeffrey Cathcart jjci@cox.net.

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Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Fall Update

By Adrienne Núñez, MMA Legislative Analyst

As we all prepare for the coming winter season, the legislature is bustling with action and [MMA's new Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine](#) is settling in. Adam is a past president of the MMA and seasoned municipal leader. He joins the MMA with considerable public management experience, understanding of the public policy environment, and deep knowledge of the policy implications of climate change. We are excited to start a new chapter with Adam at the helm.

Since the last newsletter, the Governor signed a [\\$56 billion state budget bill](#) for fiscal 2024 that increases unrestricted local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million. The budget also allocated supplemental funding for municipal roads and bridges. In all, we are celebrating the approval of \$325 million in funding over the past few months that specifically supports municipal roads and bridges.

A transportation bond bill was signed on August 4 that included \$200 million for the Chapter 90 program as well as \$25 million each for 7 grant programs. Most notably, \$25 million was authorized for a new supplemental municipal road formula program to support rural communities. The formula for the additional \$25 million authorized in the bond bill will be calculated based on road miles, population, and whether a municipality is considered rural (population below 10,000 and population density below 500 people per square mile).

The bond terms for this new authorization were set along with the terms for Chapter 90, but it may take several months for this new rural road funding to be available to communities. MassDOT must create a new formula, submit it to the Joint Committee on Transportation, and await guidance. The Transportation Committee may decide to hold a public hearing on the proposed formula.

The state budget, signed by the governor on Aug. 9, includes \$100 million for local road and bridge maintenance funded by revenue from the voter-approved surtax on annual incomes over \$1 million, which, by law, must be spent on transportation and education programs.

The \$100 million allocated in the state budget will be for a Municipal Partnership Program to support municipal road and bridge projects. At least half will be distributed based on road miles, with the remainder distributed based on the Chapter 90 formula. MassDOT has until next March 1 to provide preliminary notice to communities about their apportionment of this funding (similar to the typical Chapter 90 notifications).

The Municipal Partnership Program is statutorily intended to mirror the Chapter 90 program in terms of process and restrictions. The funding will be available as reimbursements and will likely require similar administrative processing of projects.

In addition to the \$325 million made available for municipal formula funds, bond authorizations for six additional grant programs were included in the transportation bond bill. Each program was authorized an additional \$25 million. Authorizations included the following multi-year accounts:

- Municipal Pavement Program
- Municipal Small Bridge Program
- Complete Streets Funding Program
- Municipal grants for infrastructure focused on the enhancement of mass transit by bus
- Funding for the study, design, construction or improvements that increase access to mass transit and commuter rail stations
- Grants to municipalities and regional transit authorities to support fleet electrification

In other transportation news, MassDOT is in the process of creating a municipal grants portal that would allow a one-stop application to all

MassDOT grant programs. The agency anticipates launching the portal next April. Look out for details on this as spring approaches.

Beyond the good news of additional funding for roads and bridges, we are in the midst of hearing season. Alongside municipal officials, the MMA is busy testifying in person and in writing on a number of bills including S. 1589, *An Act relative to the use of green lights for municipal emergency management vehicles* and S.2107/H.3156, *An Act relative to municipal authority in public rights of way*.

[S.1589](#) would allow for departments of public works to use green strobe lights on department vehicles for DPW operations. Blair Crane, DPW Director in Norfolk, and Kevin Collins, Assistant Director of Public Works in Westminster, offered testimony in support of the bill.

[S.2107](#) and [H. 3156](#) would address the issue of double poles by allowing municipalities the ability to remove double poles, charge utility companies for the removal, and enact fees and taxes. Yarmouth's DPW Director and Mass Highway board member, Jeff Colby and Athol's Environmental Compliance & Asset Manager, Jennifer Shaw and Assistant Superintendent of DPW Paul Raskevitz provided testimony detailing the issues that arise due to double poles and how this legislation would provide relief.

If you are interested in testifying on a particular bill or issue of interest to you, please be in touch. I always want to know about your priorities.

Finally, special thanks to Dave Desrosiers, Granby Highway Superintendent and Mass Highway board member; Randall Kemp, Southampton Highway Superintendent; Mike Hale, Gloucester Dir. of Public Works and Mass Highway board member; and Steve Rolle, Worcester Commissioner of Transportation & Mobility for serving as panelists at a special State House briefing event on October 17.

In collaboration with Representative Michelle Ciccolo, the event was intended to celebrate new roadway funding while also providing information to legislators and their staff about state grant programs including Chapter 90 and the importance of these programs to municipal roadway needs. The audience heard from MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver about DOT projects and key grant programs, and a panel of municipal officials who provided an overview of roadway operations and financing of projects in their unique municipalities.

There's much more ahead in the coming months as the legislature wraps up its year on November 15 and MMA prepares for our [2024 Annual Meeting](#). Registration is open! We hope to see you there on January 19 and 20.

Until next time!

Adrienne Núñez, Legislative Analyst, MMA anunez@mma.org



Safety Corner

compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HazCompliance, LLC

Free Safety Development and Training Resources

It has been almost six years since the Commonwealth of Massachusetts expanded compliance with the OSHA laws in the municipal sector. In 2014, by statute, Massachusetts authorized the DLS to provide State workers with at least the level of protection from workplace safety and health hazards as protections provided under the OSH Act by Federal OSHA (M.G.L. c. 149, § 6 1/2), and was then expanded in 2018 to include all municipal workers. Through continued outreach initiatives, training, and encouragement, towns were made aware of this adoption and the expectations for safety. As a private safety consulting company, we continue to encounter clients who are unfamiliar with the resources and responsibilities of the safety laws.

To provide a very general, simplified overview of what the safety expectations are, municipalities should ensure they are satisfying the following:

- **Identify the hazards** of the tasks their employees are expected to take on (example: flying debris from leaf blower could injure eyes, lacerate skin; loud noise from blower could damage hearing; job location may bring worker around traffic; etc...).
- **Determine what safety precautions/ controls** should be put in place to protect them from injury (from leaf blower example: wear safety glasses and long pants and boots, hearing protection and hi vis clothing).
- **Train employees** in the specific hazards and subsequent safety precautions (continued example: ensure workers know how to hold blower, turn it on, angles to use it in, how to use all the PPE properly, to be aware of the traffic, how to fuel, etc...).

Identification can be done through the use of safety policies and inspection checklists; precaution measures can be unique, but most are typical, and guidance can be found in multiple documents for support. Training can often be overthought; many topic presentations can be and should be on-the-job conversations about task safety, and we need to effectively train our employees on the specific tasks they are expected to perform.

Resources for all the above-mentioned support documents have already been developed for guidance and use. Many people do not take advantage of the tools that are available to them. Understandably, it can be daunting with the large amount of compliance tasks for safety alone- but putting together an overall plan for safety is a start.

The following are links to policies, inspections lists, training support fact sheets, and training material that can all be used to support the municipal sector in the safety journey:

Sample and template safety programs can be found on Mass.gov at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-programs-for-the-public-sector>

Inspection sheets to self-audit your garage, highway division, water divisions, there are great checklists at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masssafetyworks-resources>

Training checklists and DLS-developed training PowerPoints via YouTube can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-programs-for-the-public-sector>; training fact sheets can be located <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masssafetyworks-resources> but also on OSHA's website for Fact Sheets <https://www.osha.gov/publications/bytype/fact-sheets> or for extensive training materials developed by multiple sources <https://www.osha.gov/harwoodgrants/grantmaterials/bytopic/>.

If this is still a daunting task to begin to tackle, Mass DLS also offers free consultations. Alternatively, your insurance/ insurance group may offer guidance and support on safety efforts and the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents offers grants annually for towns to provide safety training for their employees (<https://www.mass.gov/workplace-safety-grant-program>).

With the plethora of resources available, continuing the efforts of developing a safety program in your department can be attainable.

Upcoming Training

by Kathryn Donnelly, Digital Marketing Specialist

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11/15/2023 – Chicopee

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County Association News

Barnstable County – Jeff Colby

Barnstable County Public Works Association held its Annual Golf Tournament on June 5th at New Seabury Golf Club in Mashpee. This event funds the annual scholarships.

The Annual Clam Bake took place on August 3rd with great attendance. Barnstable County Public Works awarded 5 scholarships, and awarded \$18,500, including scholarships at both Cape Cod Tech and Upper Cape Tech.

Barnstable County and Plymouth County held a joint meeting at Sagamore Inn, on September 7th where they heard from Division of Labor Standards on OSHA standards for the public sector.

On October 5th, the membership met at the Family Table Collaborative for a lunch meeting and heard from the Cape Cod Commission on Transportation Projects.

Upcoming Meetings:

November 3rd - Anniversary Celebration at Ryan Family Amusement.
December 7th - Christmas Luncheon at the Emerald Resort.

Berkshire County/District #1 Hwy. Supt. Assoc. – Curt Wilton

The Berkshire County Highway Superintendents Association has been in existence since 1979 and is located in the beautiful Berkshire Hills on the far western fringe of Massachusetts. Comprised of the 56 cities and towns in the MassDOT District #1, we as an association are one of the smallest and most active organizations in the Commonwealth.

2023 Year in review

April 27 - 1st Meeting/Workshop, Italian American Club, Pittsfield.

Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director Berkshire Retirement System, gave a great presentation to all in attendance pertaining to the system, especially to those of us who are approaching that golden moment.

Mike Callahan, Owner of Beaver Solutions LLC presented comprehensive Beaver Management plans that are valuable tools for town agencies.

June 16 – The 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held at Bas Ridge Golf Course in Hinsdale. The Berkshire Humane Society was our charity choice, and we presented a \$4,800 check to them at our October meeting.

June 22 - 2nd Meeting/Workshop, Italian American Club, Pittsfield.

Edward MacKeil (DLS), Department of Labor Standards Health and Safety Inspectors, gave a presentation on Workplace Health and Safety along with a power point presentation dealing with such topics as trench excavation, work zone safety, PPE, common hazards on the job and developing leadership skills.

August 24 - 3rd Meeting/Workshop, New Location, Dalton VFW, Dalton.

Cynthia Schaedig, Employment Counselor, MA Pre-Apprenticeship Vocational School Program, UMTC Workforce Development Program, gave a great presentation on how the program works and what type of success rate the program provides. This program is a vital tool for our industry. Bringing in young people to learn and grow along side with our current employees will help give a strong future workforce for our industry.

September 29 - 39th Annual Equipment Show & Picnic, Hinsdale Fire Grounds.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the show was postponed to later in the fall. In Berkshire County, Mother Nature runs the show and the later you wait the nastier she can get. Although the day was raw with steady rain, those in attendance were not disappointed. A GREAT DAY was had by all. I want to thank ALL the vendors and DPW workers who attended this event.

October 26 – The Annual Meeting Elections and Scholarship Awards, Dalton VFW provided a recap of this year’s meetings and events along with our election of new executive board for the 2023-2024 season. Jamie Boyer reported on the Driver Training Skills National Competition that was held in Colorado in September. We presented the Golf Charity check to the Berkshire Humane Society at the meeting.

In closing, we would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for supporting Berkshire County Highway Superintendent Association throughout the years. The work these individuals put into the organization should never go unnoticed. The effort and commitment by all keeps our voice heard as we strive to meet our goals. “Public Works, first to respond, last to leave”.

Essex County – Michael Hale

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – Robert Cantoreggi

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex (NBM) held the first ever Fleet Supervisor’s Workshop on September 18th, in Burlington, MA. In the past, mechanic seminars were aimed toward the general mechanics on specified repair topics, while this one was more at the management level. Over 40 fleet managers attended this event, and it was well received by all.

The Town of Franklin had a very successful open house “Touch a Truck” event on Saturday October 14th. The weather was wonderful and over 40 folks attended.

NBM will be holding a Maintenance Operator Certificate course on Wednesday, November 15th. This four-hour APWA workshop provides a well-rounded overview of snow and ice control for those staff behind the wheel during snow operations. Participants receive a certificate of completion following the program. The program concentrates on the following areas from an operator’s perspective: Materials, Equipment Operations, Snow and Ice Control Operations. The event will be held on Wednesday, November 15th at the enVision Hotel & Conference Center Mansfield – Foxboro, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA.

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County Association News

Plymouth County – Chris Peck

The Plymouth County Highway Association (PCHA) met in July, September, and October during the summer and early fall of 2023.

We held our annual Ralph S. Hayward Jr. Equipment show in July, which moved back to the Upland Club in Plympton after two years at the Marshfield Fairgrounds.

In September, we co-hosted our joint meeting with the Barnstable County Public Works Association (BCPWA) at the Sagamore Inn in Sandwich, MA. The speaker at the joint meeting was Stephen Dagle, from the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards who spoke on required OSHA programs for the public sector.

We also held our annual scholarship charity golf event in September at the Southers Marsh Golf Club in Plymouth. As in the past, this was a successful event that raised funds for the Association's scholarship fund. We would like to thank Paul Maher and his team for organizing and running the event.

In October, we held our annual Snowplow Driver Safety Training Seminar (Snow Plow Rodeo) at the Marshfield Fairgrounds. This was the third year at this location. We had nine teams from Plymouth County compete in the multiple event training with the Town of Hanson taking the top overall spot.

We would like to congratulate the following members on their recent or upcoming retirements:

Peter Buttkus- Duxbury, Chris Janitelli- West Bridgewater, and Tom Reynolds – Marshfield.

We would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for supporting the Plymouth County Highway Association as we look forward to another mild winter season.

Tri-County Highway Association – Rob Colson

Scholarship winners will be announced at the Annual Joint Meeting with the Massachusetts Highway Association on November 14th at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee.

Our annual golf outing on August 17th at Southampton Country Club was a success with 75 participants. We hope everyone that attended had a great day and are looking forward to the next golf outing on August 15, 2024. Save the dates: March 21, 2024, for our winter meeting and June 6, 2024 for our annual meeting.

Worcester County – Jay Fink

The Worcester County Highway Association is preparing for the fall Business Meeting and Holiday Social. This year's event will be held on November 14th at the Berlin Country Club and includes a captivating agenda as well as the traditional Country Store Holiday Raffle. Please save the date and come join us.

The Annual Golf Tournament was held on September 19th at Heritage Golf Club in Charlton and was a great success and a lot of fun. Thanks to all that came out and helped collect almost \$1000 for our scholarship fund through the raffle which followed the barbeque steak dinner. Next year's outing is slated for September 10th, and we are looking to give the winning teams from Indus and Putnam Pipe a run for the top prizes.



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2023 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament



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The 13th MHA annual charity golf tournament was held on August 15th at the Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton. The annual event recognizes a long-standing

member who has made significant contributions to the Mass Highway Association. Proceeds raised from the event are given to the charity of the honoree's choice.

The 2023 honoree, Gerald "Jerry" Coppola, chose the Dana Farber Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center as this year's charity.

A special thank you to Jerry for his many years of service to the Massachusetts Highway Association as a Director from Berkshire County and MHA President. Jerry is a retired Town of Richmond Highway Superintendent. He is Secretary of the Berkshire County Highway Association where he has served on the Board of Directors and as President.

We would like to extend a giant thank you to all attendees, sponsors and volunteers who made this event a success.

We also wish to extend a special thanks to our tournament sponsors: Advantage Truck Group, All States Materials Group, BMC Corp, CN Wood, Eastern Salt, and Environmental Partners Group LLC.

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Patrick Kelly Tarves, 56, of Hudson, MA passed away on July 13, 2023. Pat worked for the Sudbury Department of Public Works for 38 years and was promoted to a Highway Foreman. Pat was a generous man who would do anything for anyone. He was a sports fanatic, big-time golfer, and a Mr. Fixit kind of guy. His eyes lit up for snowstorms, ice pops, prime rib, and root beer floats. A hard-working, sweet, innocent man, gone way to soon.

Frank Savchuk, a 27-year veteran employee of the Lynnfield DPW died suddenly in August of a heart attack. Frank was a talented mechanic who could fix anything along with being a hot-rod buff. He was the proud owner of a 1970 Oldsmobile 442 classic car along with other autos.

Patrick "Rick" Galliher, 74, of Pittsfield died on June 18th. Rick was a former Hinsdale Highway Department Superintendent and had served as a Massachusetts Highway Association Director from the Berkshire County Highway Association. Rick died at Hillcrest Commons and ironically his wife, Darlene, 73, died the same day at Berkshire Medical Center.

Newsletter Update

This Fall 2023 Newsletter is distributed digitally and is also available on the MHA website masshwy.org. If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the newsletter, please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at bill@msn.com and give him your email address. All advertisers have a link to their websites. Please support our advertisers. All news items should be sent to your MHA County Director or directly to the editor. The next issue will be distributed in Spring 2024.

43rd New England Public Works Expo Photos



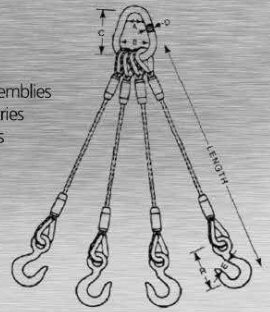
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